

it over to the National Democratic Party.

The Senate will never green light politically motivated attempts to take over America's elections, and that is good thing. And we are not going to go down this road on this new, rehashed, modified, substitute effort to nationalize our Federal elections.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

#### CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, for more than 100 years, scientists have shown that burning fossil fuels creates carbon pollution that heats up and builds up in our atmosphere. It just doesn't go away. It just keeps building up more and more and more.

And for more than 100 years, we kept on burning fossil fuels anyway. In fact, we have given major—as a Congress—major, permanent tax benefits for the past 100 years to the fossil fuel industry. Now we are experiencing the full force and the huge cost of that choice, and it is growing even faster than many predicted.

This week, I published a report that outlined how extreme weather events are becoming more destructive, more dangerous, and more expensive, thanks to the climate crisis.

Last year, the U.S. Senate set an awful record. We had 22 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in one year—the most ever. In total, these 22 disasters cost the Nation almost \$100 billion in damages, and 262 Americans lost their lives in severe storms and heat waves and wildfires.

2020 may have set a record, but, unfortunately, it is a record that is going to be broken probably this year. Over the past 5 years, American taxpayers have spent an average of \$126 billion a year in damages due to these disasters. And the total cost of these disasters over the last 15 years tops \$1 trillion, and growing every single day, every single year.

We are debating right now a budget—a Build Back Better Budget—and it involves investing in a number of important things over 10 years at about \$350 billion a year, and we are going to spend that very soon just on climate damage if we don't get ahead of this.

I know the Presiding Officer is leading on this in a very important way, which I thank you, for the issue around clean electricity policies. We have a lot of work to do. Nobody is going untouched. No State is untouched—from Montana to Mississippi, to Massachusetts, to Michigan.

Last week, President Biden was in Idaho surveying the terrible damage caused by wildfires. He said: "We can't continue to ignore reality."

He is right. The reality is carbon pollution is the root cause of the climate crisis. Pollution goes into the atmosphere. It doesn't leave. It just gathers there more and more and more and more, and we are seeing what is happening as a result of that.

If we don't combat the climate crisis now, the destruction and the deaths will continue to go up and up and up. If you think taking action is expensive, consider the cost of inaction.

Who pays the bill?

Well, we all do. We all pay the bill.

Then there is the personal cost. I am thinking of a landowner who lives on the same wooded acres his grandfather owned—or at least he did until a drought-fueled wildfire destroyed his home and the forest that surrounded it.

I am thinking of the small business that lost its roof and all of its inventory when a hurricane and the resulting storm surge hit a small beachside community.

I am thinking of all the Michigan growers I know who are one early freeze or dry season away from being unable to keep the family farm going, and I am thinking of those 262 families who lost someone they loved and will never be the same.

We owe it to those families to take action so that the climate crisis doesn't continue to cost people their lives and their livelihoods, and we owe it to American taxpayers to do all we can to avoid the worst impacts of this crisis.

We know what we need to do. We know what we need to do. We need to cut carbon pollution. That is what we need to do. There are big interests on the other side—oil and gas and coal interests. There is a lot of money—big special interests that keep trying to tell us this isn't real. You know, what you are seeing right in front of your face, what you are experiencing in your life, isn't real; it is pretend; it is not really happening. They put a lot of money into trying to stop what we are doing, but we have to take action. We have to take action. We know this is about carbon pollution; it is also about methane pollution and other greenhouse gases.

We can start doing something about it by passing the Build Back Better budget that the President has proposed. The Build Back Better budget will make electric vehicles more affordable and ensure that they are built right here in the United States. I want them built in Michigan, but at a minimum, we want them built in the United States. That is really important because we know that the transportation sector is the single largest source of carbon pollution that is driving climate change. Electric vehicles are a major part of the solution but not the only one, but they are a major part of it.

The question is not whether they will be built; it is where they will be built—whether they are going to be built in China, where they are spending over \$100 billion right now to capture the entire market, including electric batteries as well as the vehicles, or whether we are going to make it in America.

My goal is to make these vehicles in America. I have often said that Michigan workers are the best in the world.

I believe that. Under the Build Back Better budget, they will lead this world. American workers will lead the world if we are smart about doing what we need to do to invest in America.

The Build Back Better budget also provides clean energy tax incentives, and it funds clean energy procurement so we can make the electricity we need to power the vehicles without carbon pollution. It helps ensure that the technologies we need to transition to clean energy are built right here in the United States by providing tax credits for manufacturers to retool and build new plants to produce advanced energy parts.

It will hold polluters accountable and make sure they are held responsible for their actions. It will invest in important clean electricity policies. It will invest in climate-smart agriculture so that farmers and ranchers and foresters can continue to be an even bigger part of the solution, and it will restore our forests and make them more resilient to wildfires.

The Build Back Better budget, alongside the bipartisan infrastructure package, which is also very important, will make our infrastructure more resilient and tackle the main driver of the climate crisis: carbon pollution.

Best of all, these investments will also create millions of good-paying American jobs. That is the great part. As we are transitioning in Michigan, we are seeing jobs that are being created as part of the clean energy economy.

It is true that these policies represent significant investments, but it is also true that the cost of inaction is much, much higher. Inaction has consequences—so many different consequences—for us, for our children, for our grandchildren, and we can't afford those consequences. We just can't afford those consequences anymore.

So, on behalf of all of our children, on behalf of our grandchildren, now is the time to act. We must take this moment because we are running out of time. We must take this moment to act to address the pollution that is creating this climate crisis. We can do it—we know what to do—but now is the time to act and get it done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to call attention to the humanitarian crisis that is happening right now in the State of Texas, another one happening right now in Del Rio, TX—yet another consequence of President Biden's and Vice President HARRIS's dangerous refusal to enforce our laws or to protect our border, a refusal that is causing people to die; that is causing young girls to be trafficked; that is causing drugs to pour into our State; and that is causing our communities to become much less safe.

Right now, thousands of Haitians are camped under a bridge in Del Rio, TX,